

# The Power of Parent Education in *Child Protection*

Every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment. Yet, globally, 1 in 6 children lives in extreme poverty, intensifying the threats of abuse and violence that they face daily.<sup>1</sup> And the staggering reality is that up to 1 billion children 2–17 have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect in the past year.<sup>2</sup> Shockingly, it is estimated fewer than half of these children ever tell anyone, and fewer than 10% receive any form of help.<sup>3</sup>

## Empowering Parents to Make a Difference

We believe the journey toward protecting children begins with empowering those closest to them: their parents and caregivers. Research shows that mistreatment of children is preventable. When parents receive guidance and education on how they can nurture healthy relationships with their children, the risk of abuse drops dramatically. Interventions designed to teach new skills and foster empathy have a profound impact, not only improving the way adults relate to children but also reshaping families for generations.

## Compassion's Response

We believe parents and caregivers hold first and primary responsibility for the care and protection of children. Consequently, we recognize that providing support for parents and caregivers on how they can protect their children from harm inside and outside the home is critical. Because of this, parent education is a key strategy in protecting the children in our programs, and we are investing in significant efforts in this area in all 29 of our program countries.

Since January 2024, more than \$845,000 has been invested specifically in parent education, impacting over 1.8 million participants. Programs focused on abuse prevention, child development and parenting skills are equipping caregivers with the tools they need to protect children and build healthy, hopeful futures.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank & UNICEF. [Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty: An Update](#)

<sup>2</sup> WHO. [Violence Against Children Fact Sheet](#)

<sup>3</sup> UN News. [Turning the Tide on Childhood Violence](#)



**BEYOND**  
M E A S U R E



### **Rebeka, Bangladesh**

In a small village in northern Bangladesh, Rebeka, a single mother, works to support her two children, Shuvo and Eti, while facing economic challenges. With assistance from the Compassion center, she has gained important training in child protection as well as essential skills in farming to help improve the family's income. Rebeka's additional earnings have helped her to shield her children from early marriage or day labor. "I am glad to have guidance from the center regarding awareness on child marriage and the importance of education," says Rebeka.



### **Damaris, Nicaragua**

After her husband abandoned the family, Damaris was left alone with five children and no means of providing for them. The stress and pressure quickly affected her, causing her to lash out at her daughters. She justified her words and actions as her way of helping them learn how to properly behave and treat others. But after attending child protection sessions at the Compassion center, Damaris learned there was a better way to interact with her daughters. "After my mother went to the workshops and accepted the Lord as her Savior, she started to treat us with kindness, and approach us with more love than she did before. I can now feel my mother's love, and I know that I can trust her to be there to support me and my sisters," says Damaris' daughter, Wendy.



### **Yohanes, Indonesia**

When a church-based Compassion center was launched in the village of Walakiri, trainings for the parents challenged the deeply rooted cultural norm of abusive child punishment that was pervasive in the community. A man named Yohanes, the parent of three participants, was changed forever when he realized the harm of his abusive ways, confessed his sin and made a vow to God never to abuse his family again. "I always remember the confession I made to God. I don't want to break my promise to him that I will never abuse my family again," says Yohanes.